BOOM! STUDIOS

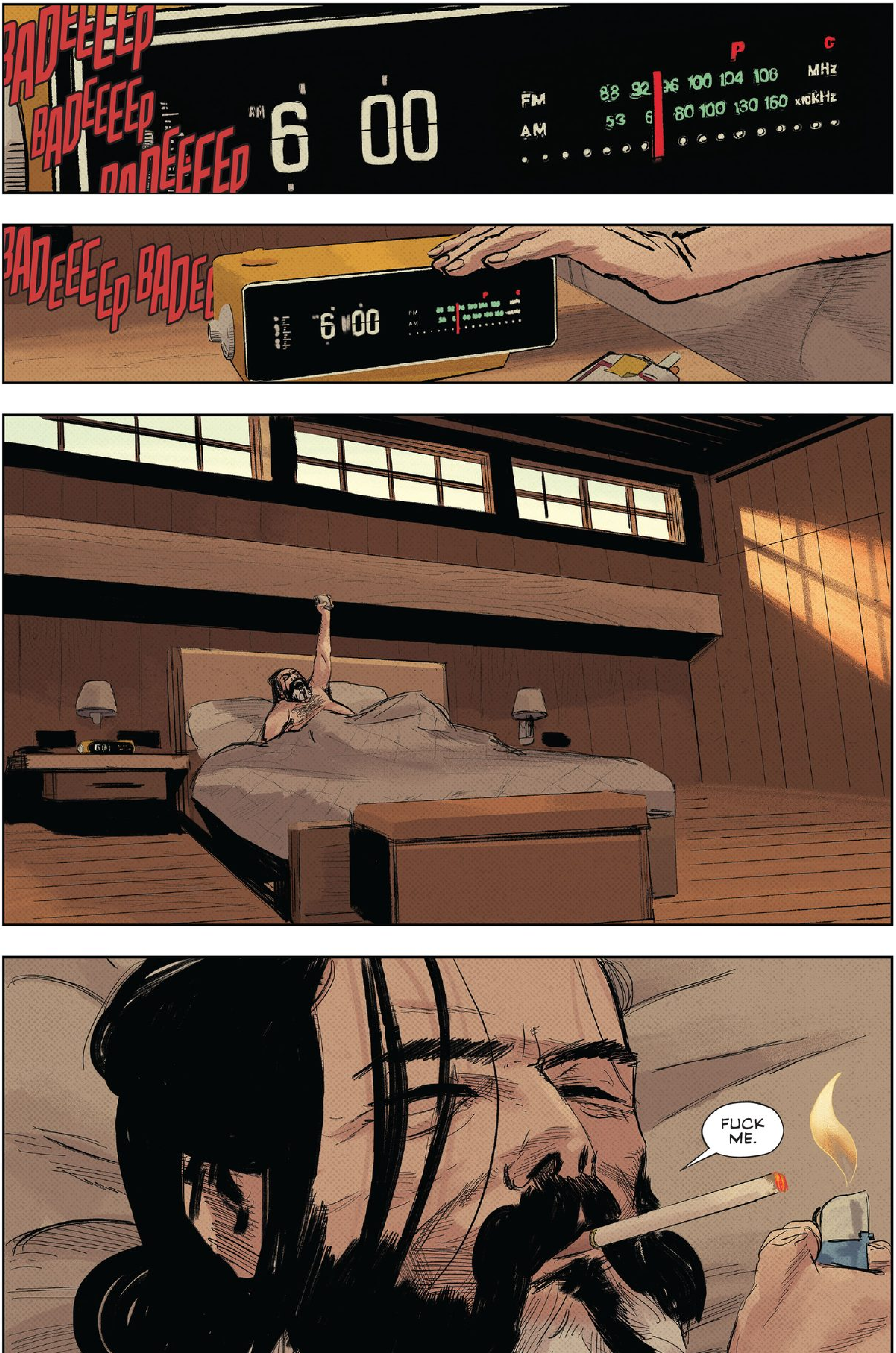
JAMES
TYNION IV

WERTHER
DELL'EDERA

MIQUEL
MUERTO

Nº 18

SOMETHING is KILLING the CHILDREN™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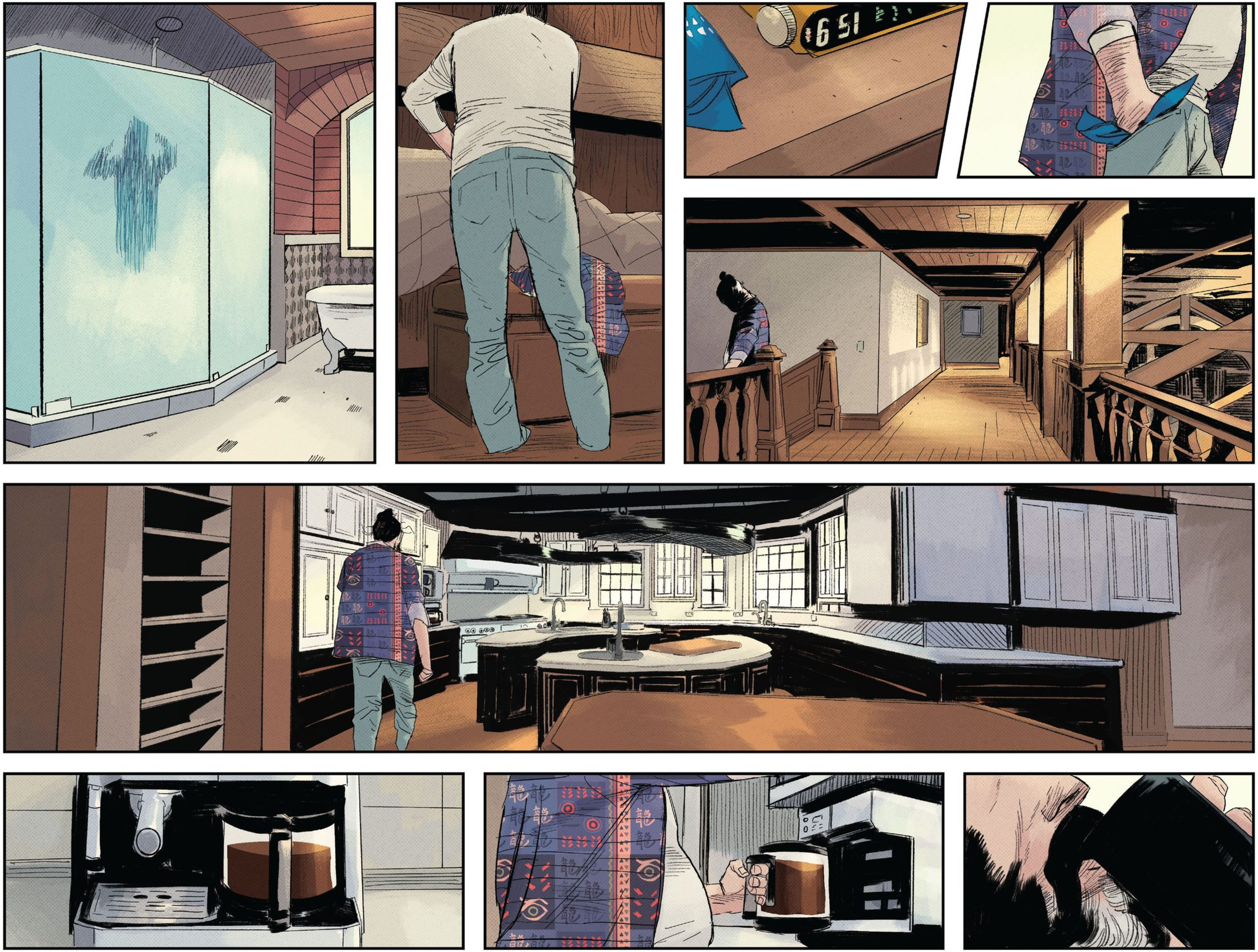
FUCK ME.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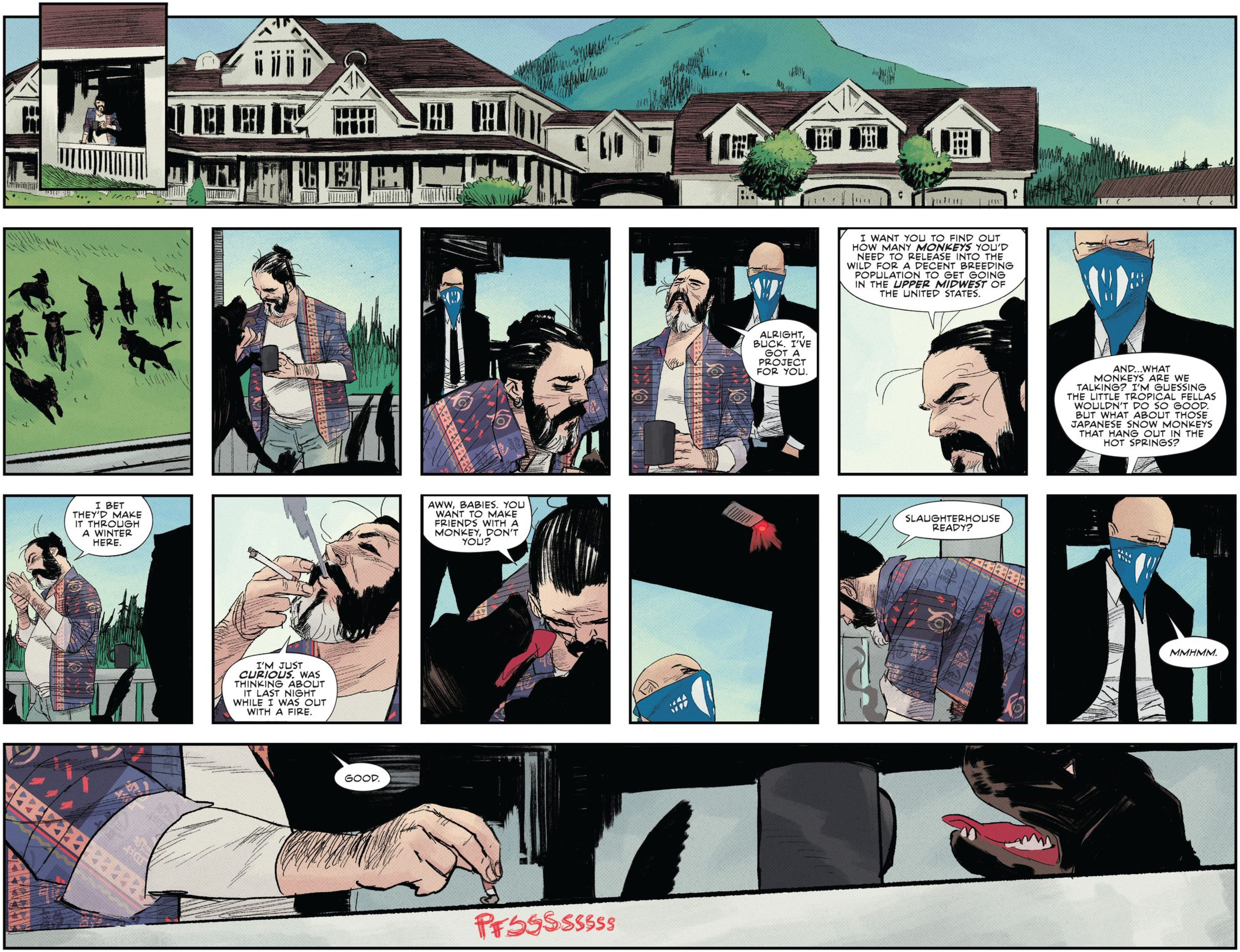
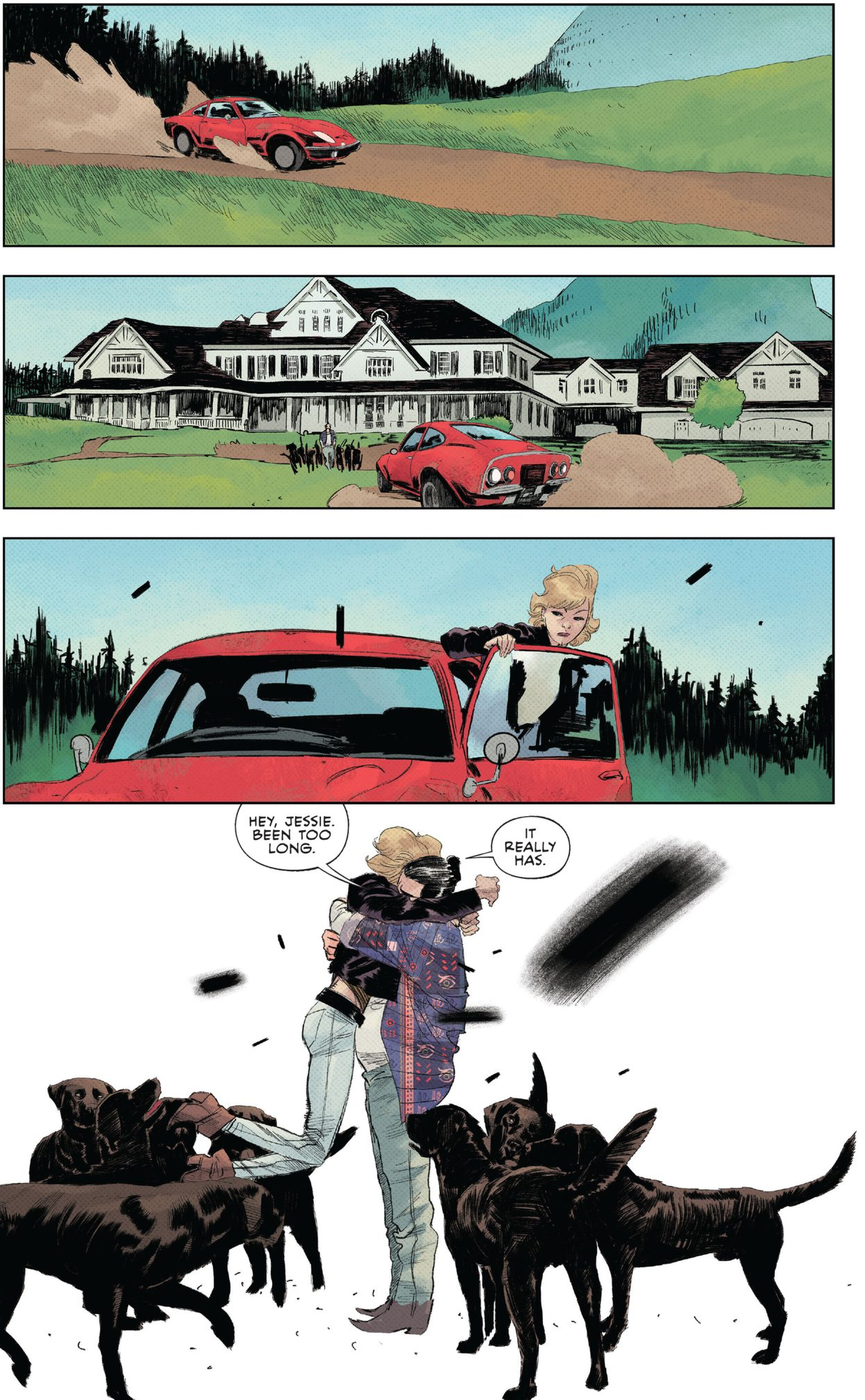
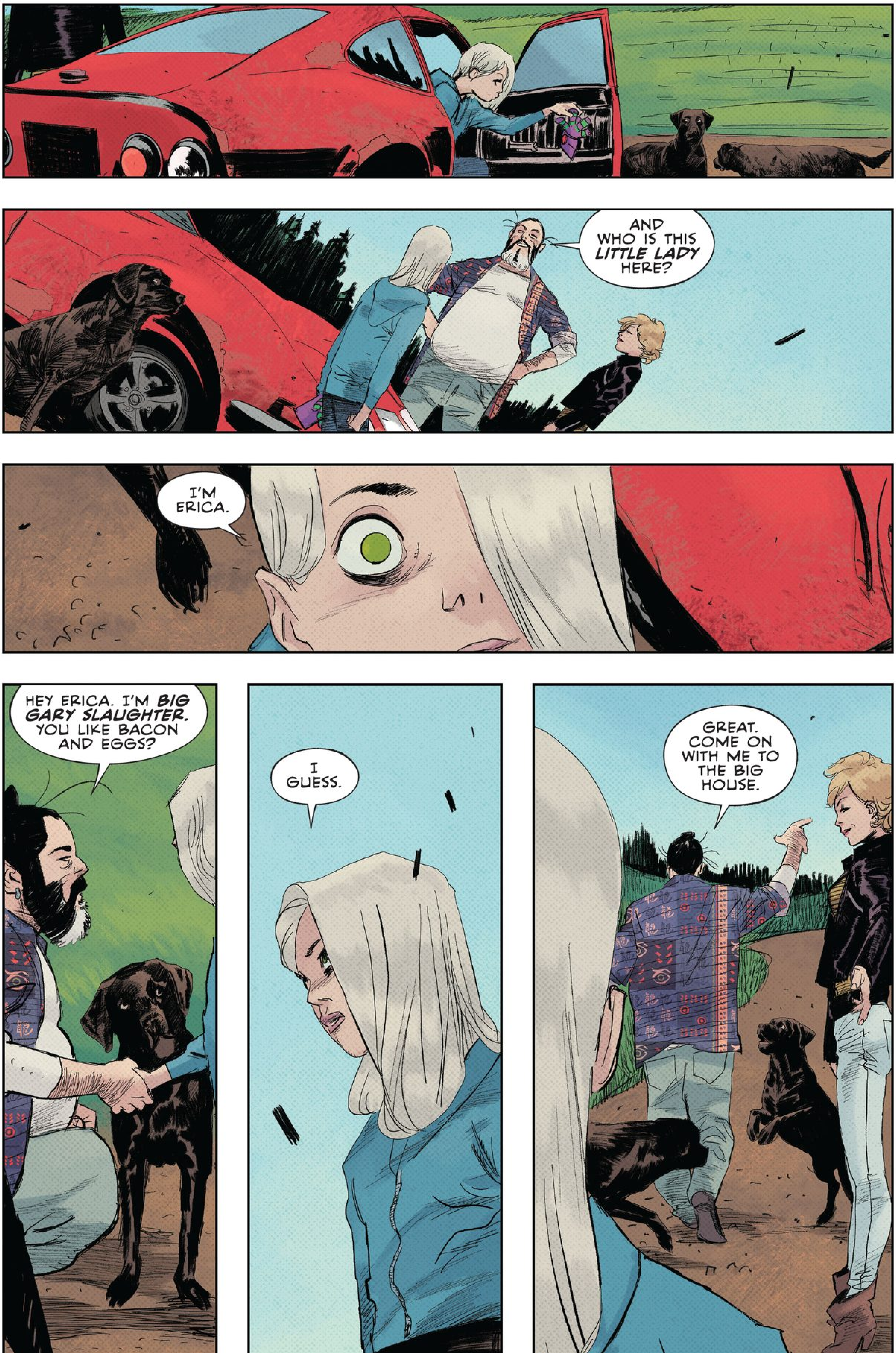
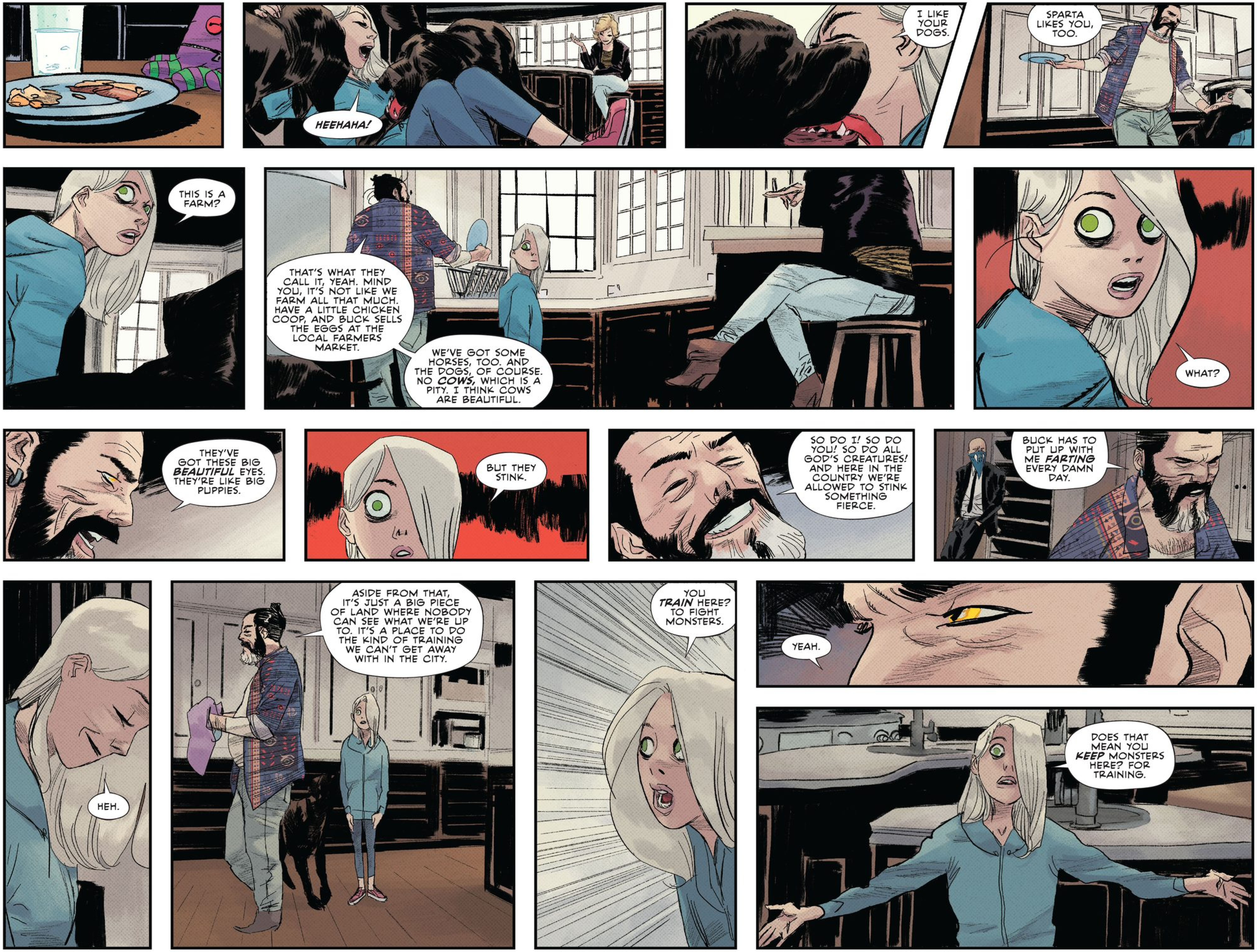
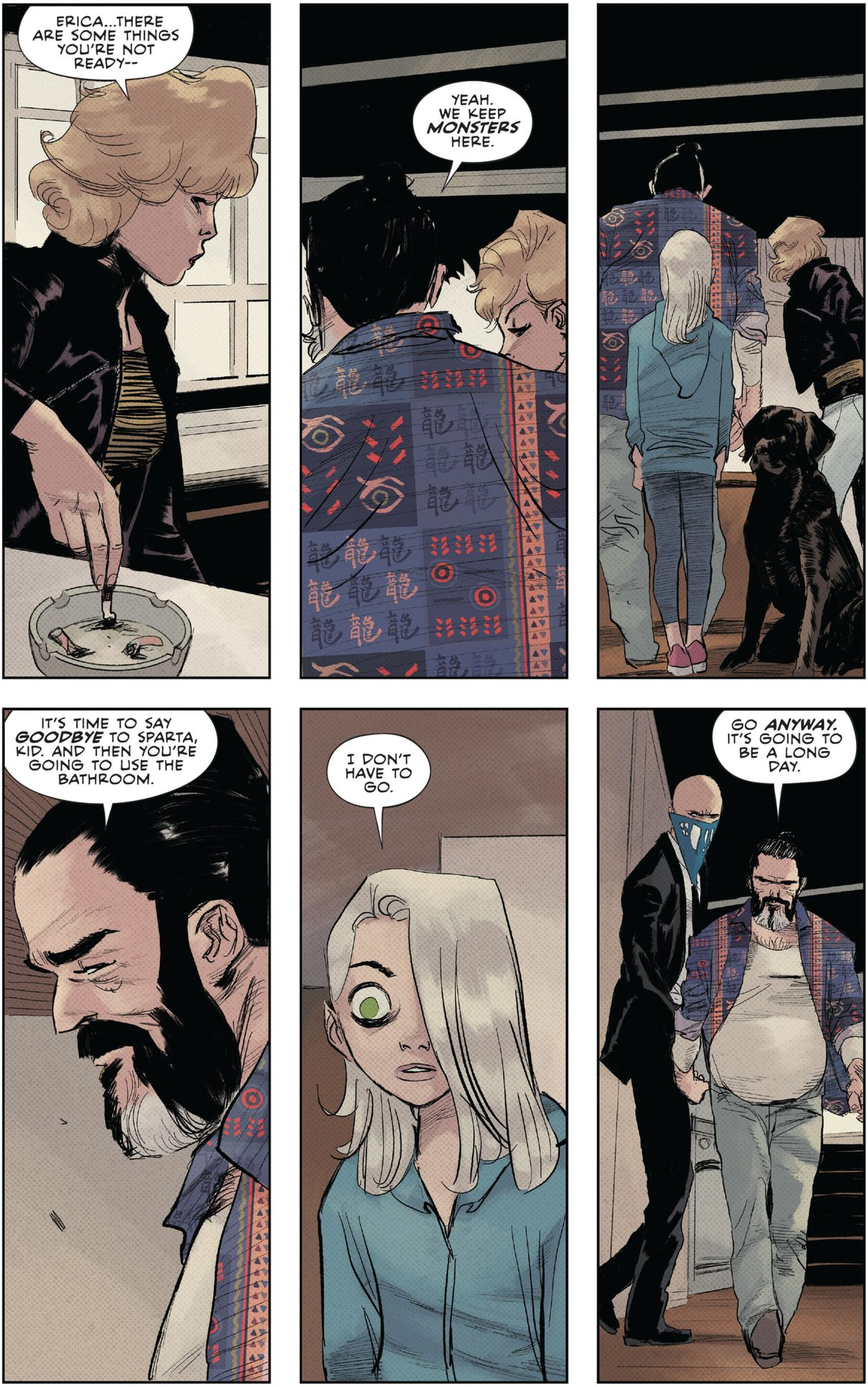

ALRIGHT, BUCK. I'VE GOT A PROJECT FOR YOU.
I WANT YOU TO FIND OUT HOW MANY MONKEYS YOU'D NEED TO RELEASE INTO THE WILD FOR A DECENT BREEDING POPULATION TO GET GOING IN THE UPPER MIDWEST OF THE UNITED STATES.
AND...WHAT MONKEYS ARE WE TALKING? I'M GUESSING THE LITTLE TROPICAL FELLAS WOULDN'T DO SO GOOD. BUT WHAT ABOUT THOSE JAPANESE SNOW MONKEYS THAT HANG OUT IN THE HOT SPRINGS?
I BET THEY'D MAKE IT THROUGH A WINTER HERE.
I'M JUST CURIOUS. WAS THINKING ABOUT IT LAST NIGHT WHILE I WAS OUT WITH A FIRE.
AWW, BABIES. YOU WANT TO MAKE FRIENDS WITH A MONKEY, DON'T YOU?
SLAUGHTERHOUSE READY?
MMHMM.
GOOD.
PFSSSSSSSS

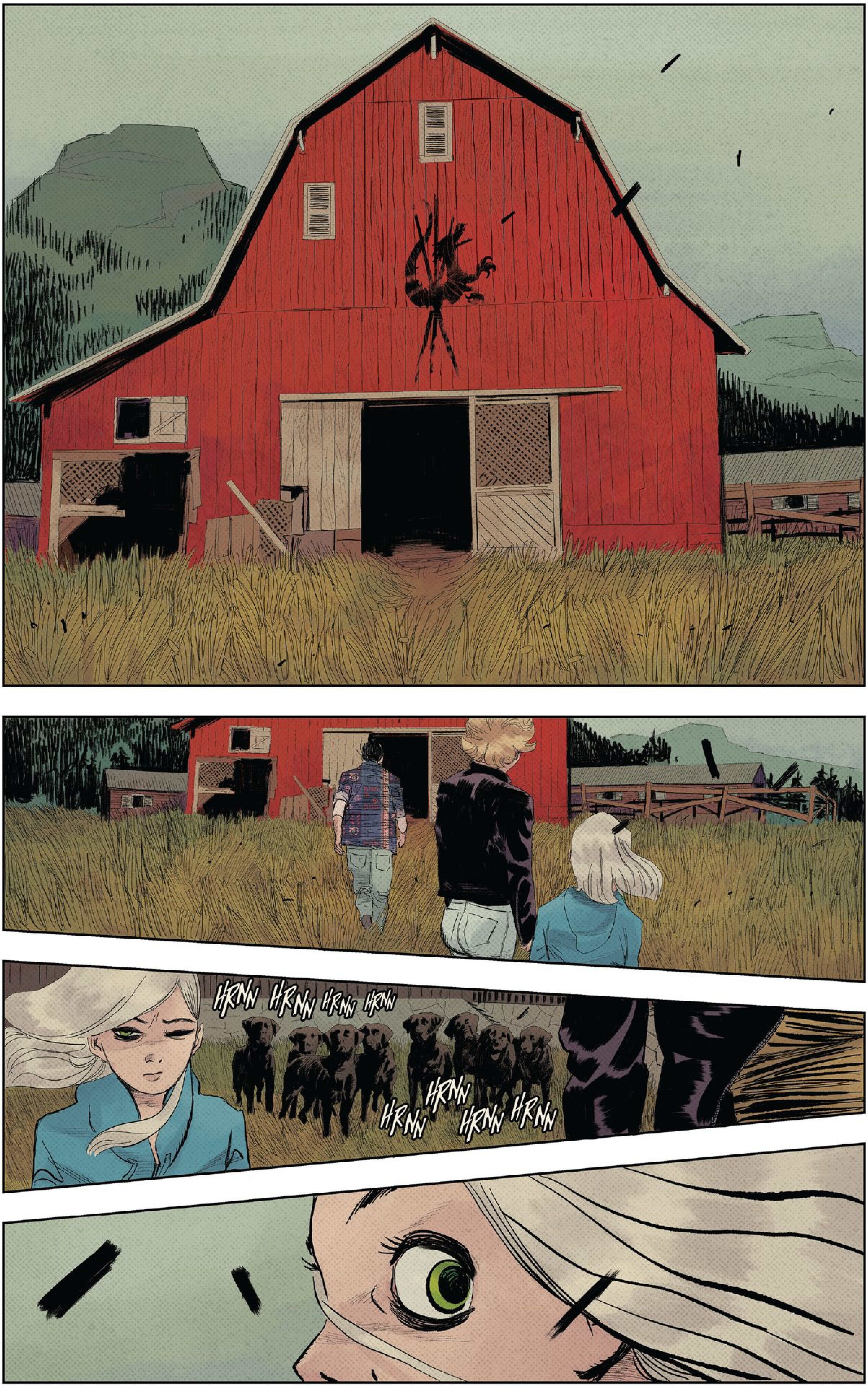
SOMETHING is KILLING the CHILDREN


HEY, JESSIE. BEEN TOO LONG.
IT REALLY HAS.


AND WHO IS THIS *LITTLE LADY* HERE?
I'M ERICA.
HEY ERICA. I'M ***BIG GARY SLAUGHTER.*** YOU LIKE BACON AND EGGS?
I GUESS.
GREAT. COME ON WITH ME TO THE BIG HOUSE.


HEEHAHA!
I LIKE YOUR DOGS.
SPARTA LIKES YOU, TOO.
THIS IS A FARM?
THAT'S WHAT THEY CALL IT, YEAH. MIND YOU, IT'S NOT LIKE WE FARM ALL THAT MUCH. HAVE A LITTLE CHICKEN COOP, AND BUCK SELLS THE EGGS AT THE LOCAL FARMERS MARKET.
WE'VE GOT SOME HORSES, TOO. AND THE DOGS, OF COURSE. NO *COWS,* WHICH IS A PITY. I THINK COWS ARE BEAUTIFUL.
WHAT?
THEY'VE GOT THESE BIG *BEAUTIFUL* EYES. THEY'RE LIKE BIG PUPPIES.
BUT THEY STINK.
SO DO *I!* SO DO *YOU!* SO DO ALL GOD'S CREATURES! AND HERE IN THE COUNTRY WE'RE ALLOWED TO STINK SOMETHING FIERCE.
BUCK HAS TO PUT UP WITH ME *FARTING* EVERY DAMN DAY.
HEH.
ASIDE FROM THAT, IT'S JUST A BIG PIECE OF LAND WHERE NOBODY CAN SEE WHAT WE'RE UP TO. IT'S A PLACE TO DO THE KIND OF TRAINING WE CAN'T GET AWAY WITH IN THE CITY.
YOU *TRAIN* HERE? TO FIGHT MONSTERS.
YEAH.
DOES THAT MEAN YOU *KEEP* MONSTERS HERE? FOR TRAINING.


ERICA...THERE ARE SOME THINGS YOU'RE NOT READY--
YEAH. WE KEEP *MONSTERS* HERE.
IT'S TIME TO SAY *GOODBYE* TO SPARTA, KID. AND THEN YOU'RE GOING TO USE THE BATHROOM.
I DON'T HAVE TO GO.
GO *ANYWAY.* IT'S GOING TO BE A LONG DAY.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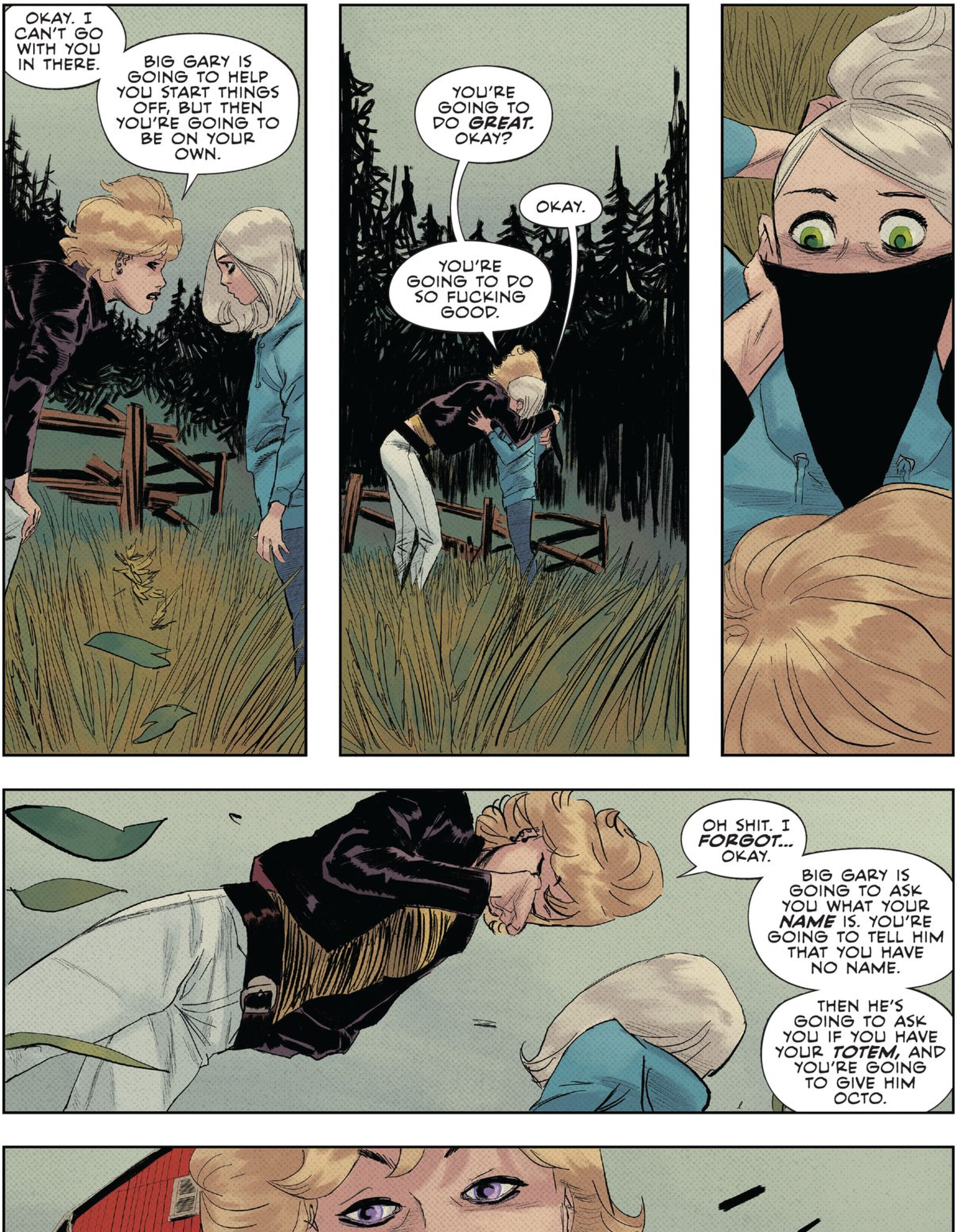
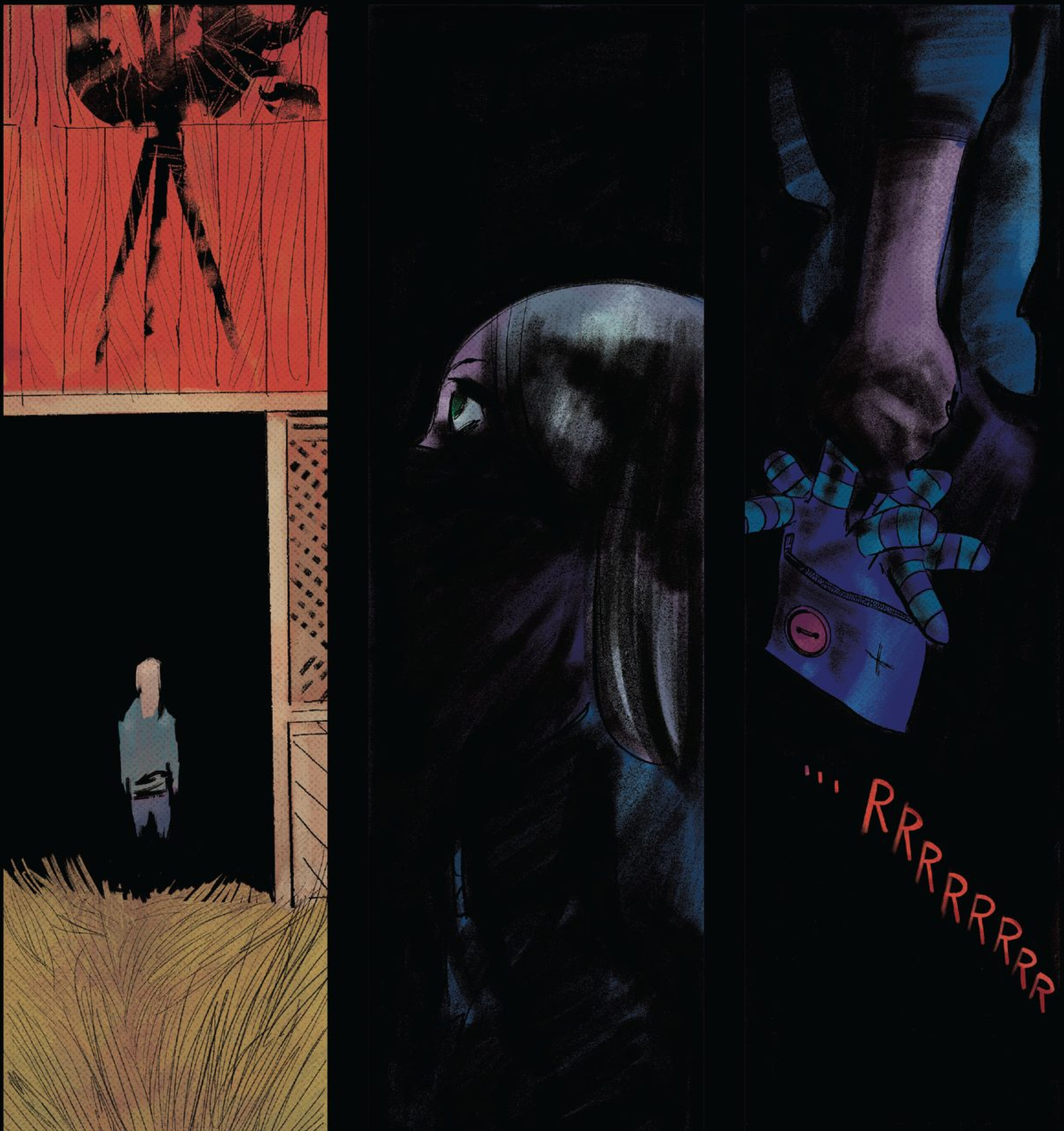
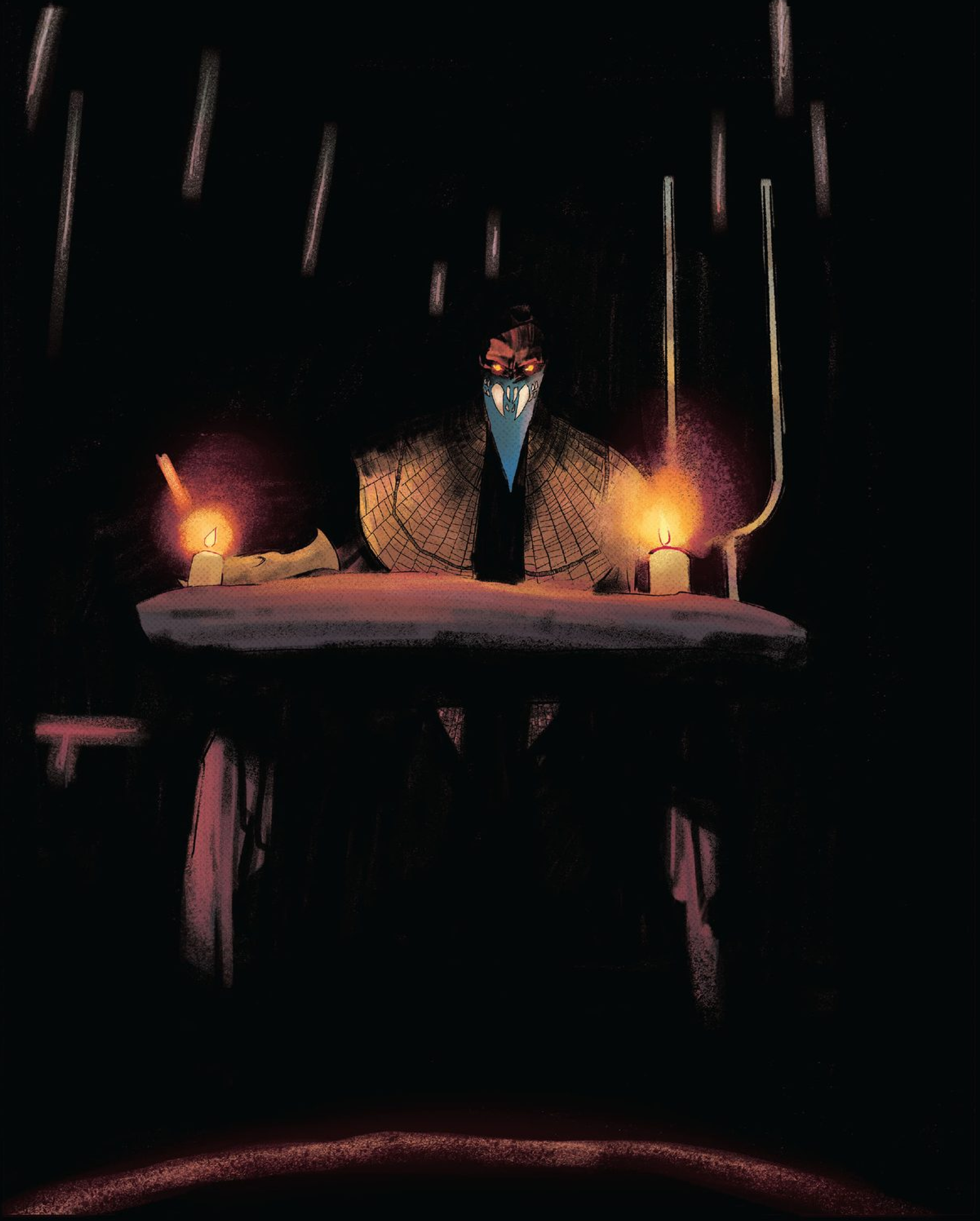
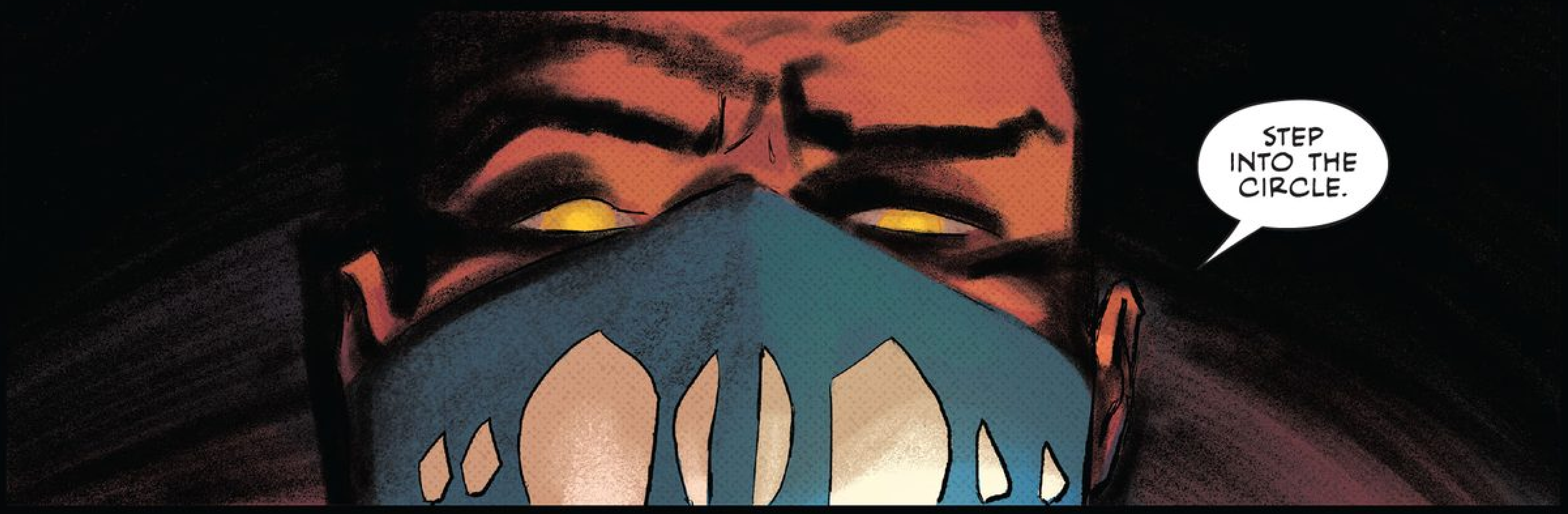
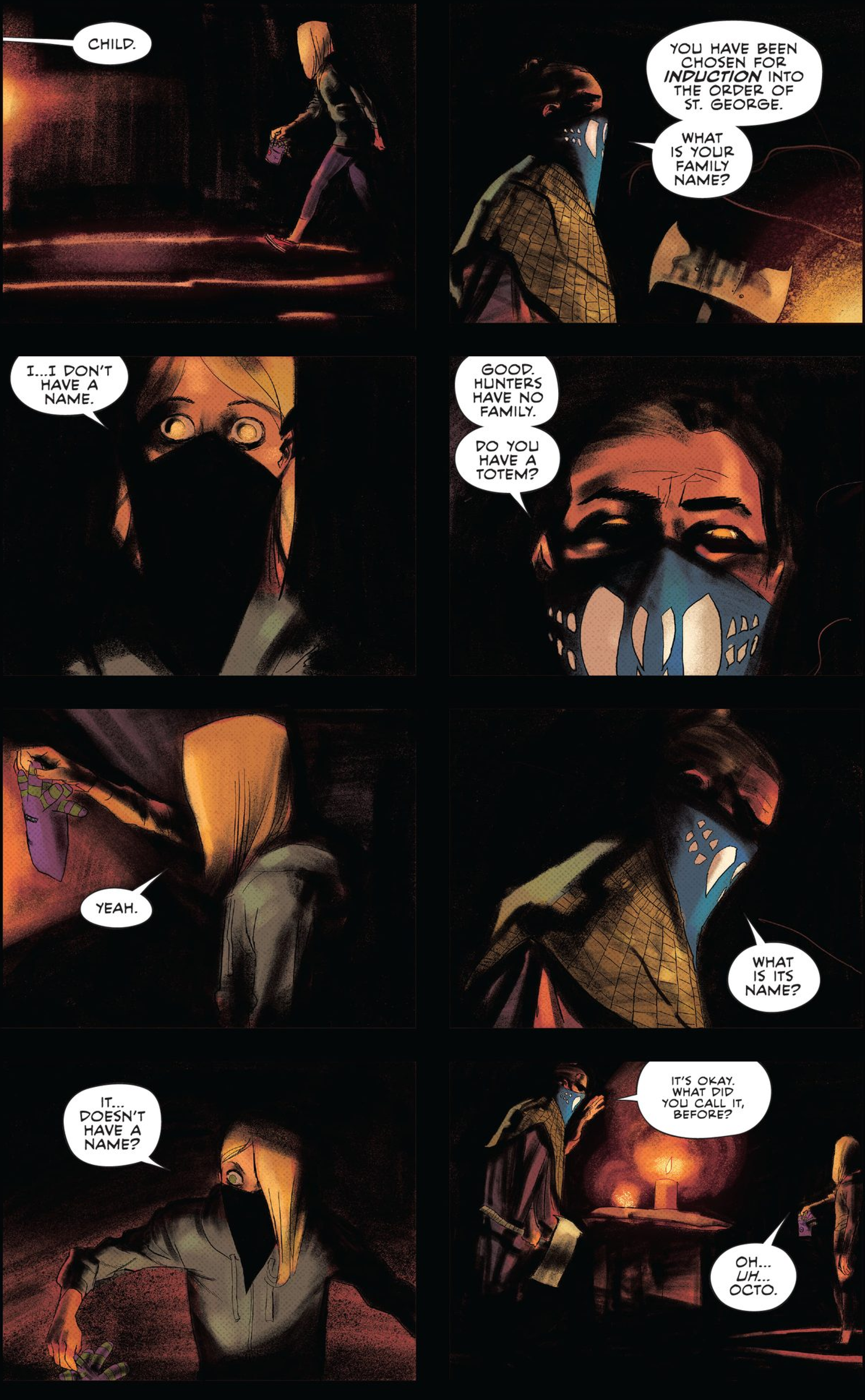
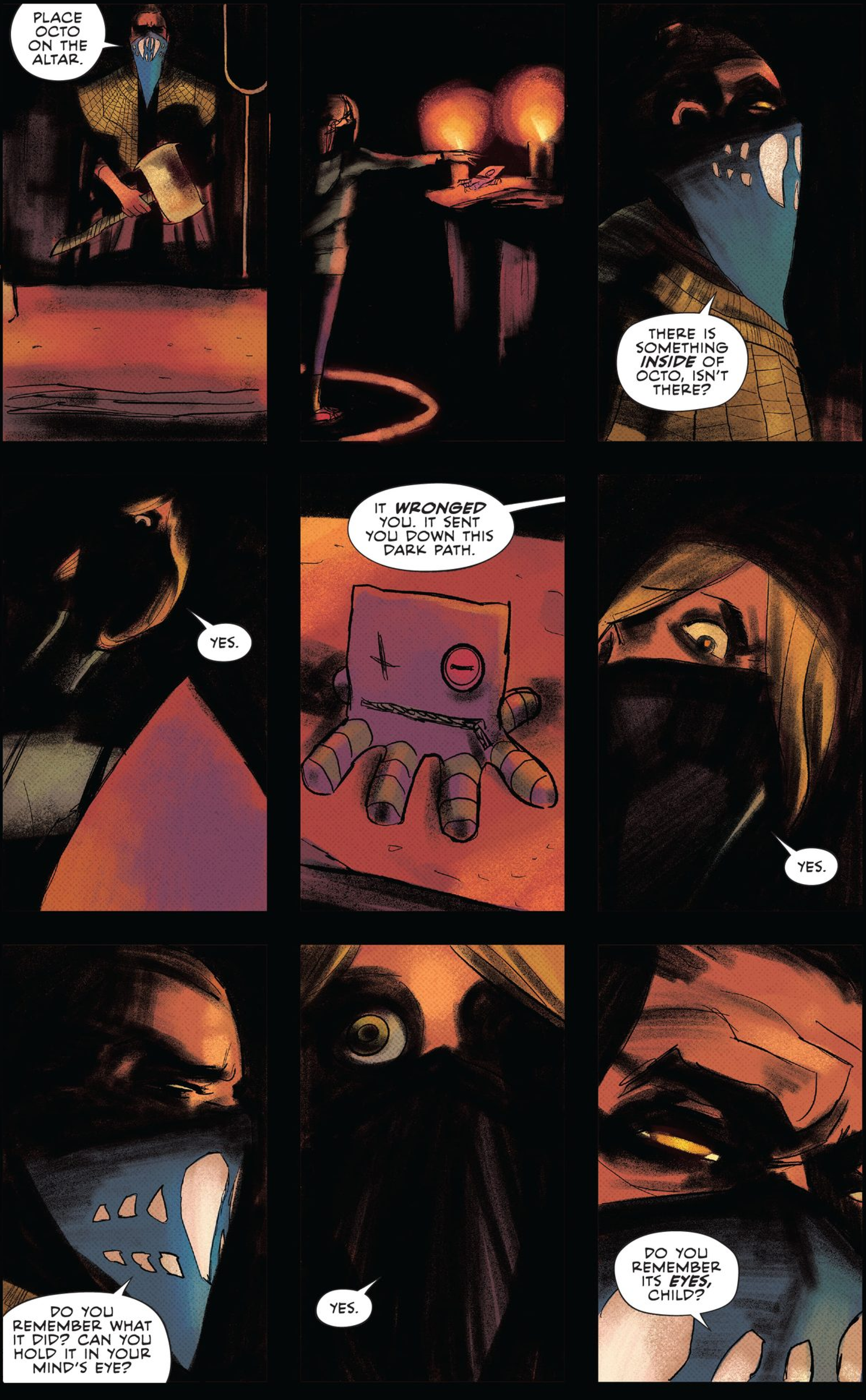

OKAY. I CAN'T GO WITH YOU IN THERE.
BIG GARY IS GOING TO HELP YOU START THINGS OFF, BUT THEN YOU'RE GOING TO BE ON YOUR OWN.
YOU'RE GOING TO DO *GREAT.* OKAY?
OKAY.
YOU'RE GOING TO DO SO FUCKING GOOD.
OH SHIT. I *FORGOT...* OKAY.
BIG GARY IS GOING TO ASK YOU WHAT YOUR *NAME* IS. YOU'RE GOING TO TELL HIM THAT YOU HAVE NO NAME.
THEN HE'S GOING TO ASK YOU IF YOU HAVE YOUR *TOTEM,* AND YOU'RE GOING TO GIVE HIM OCTO.
UNDERSTAND?
I THINK SO.

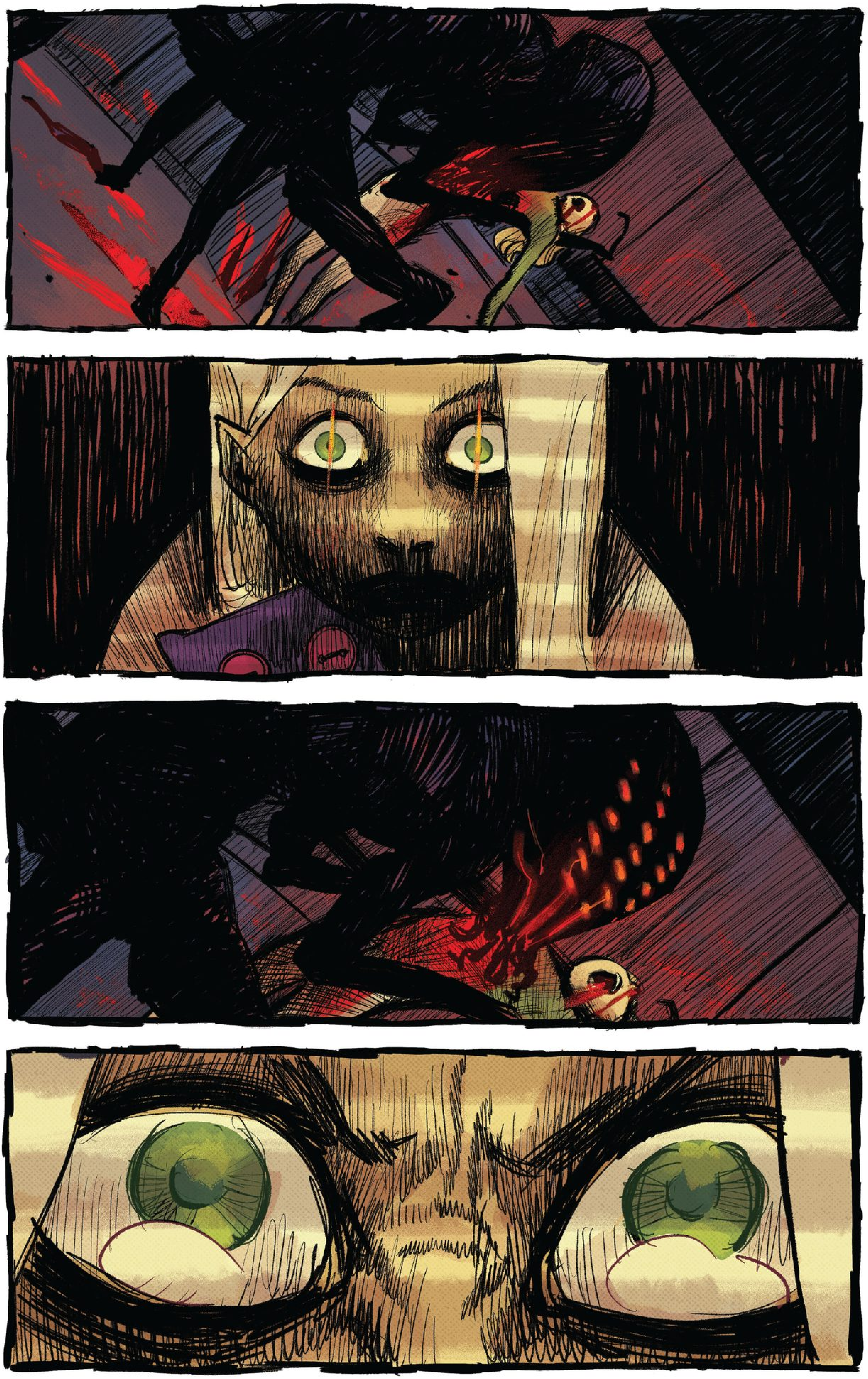

... RRRRRRRR
SHUSH.

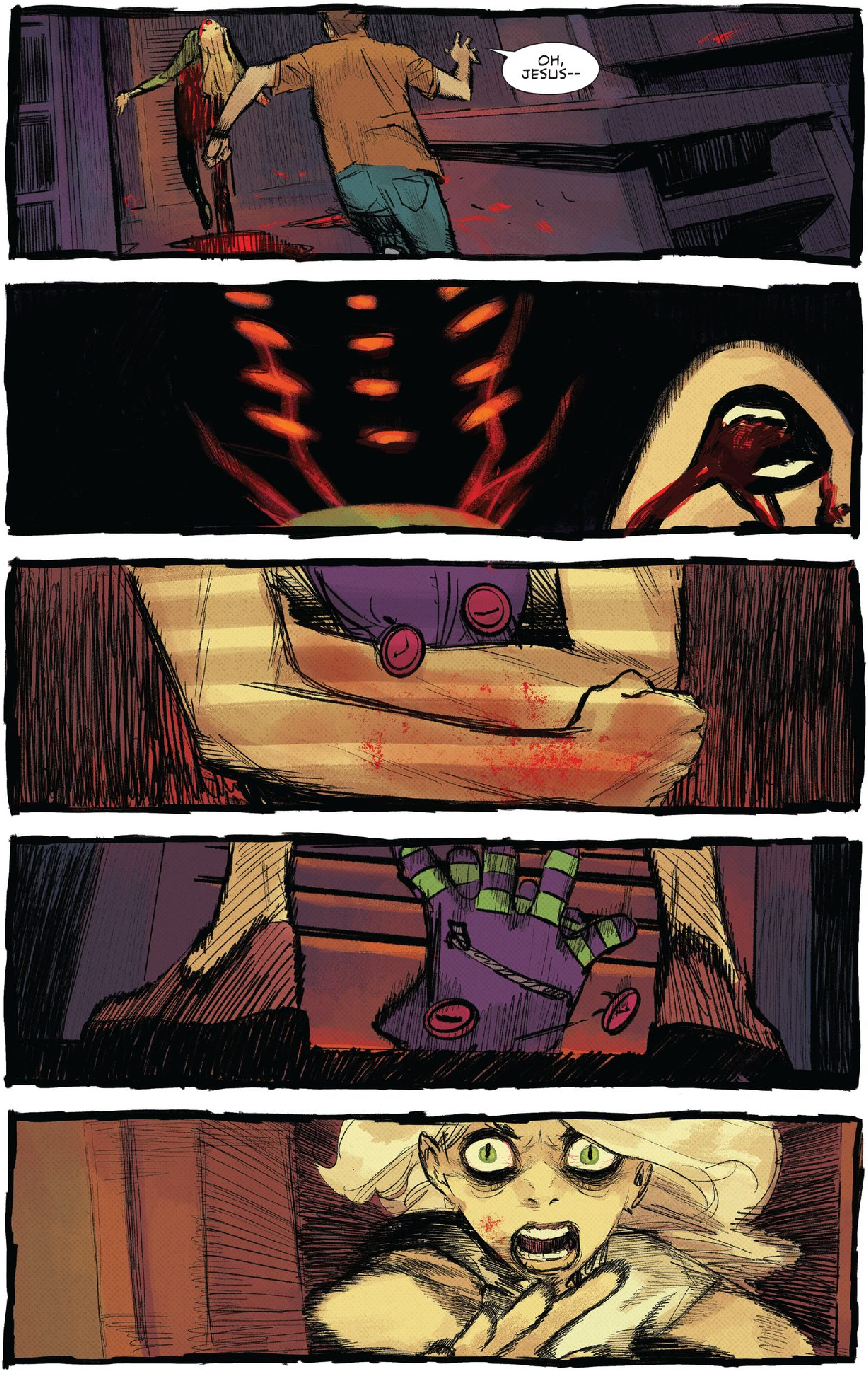


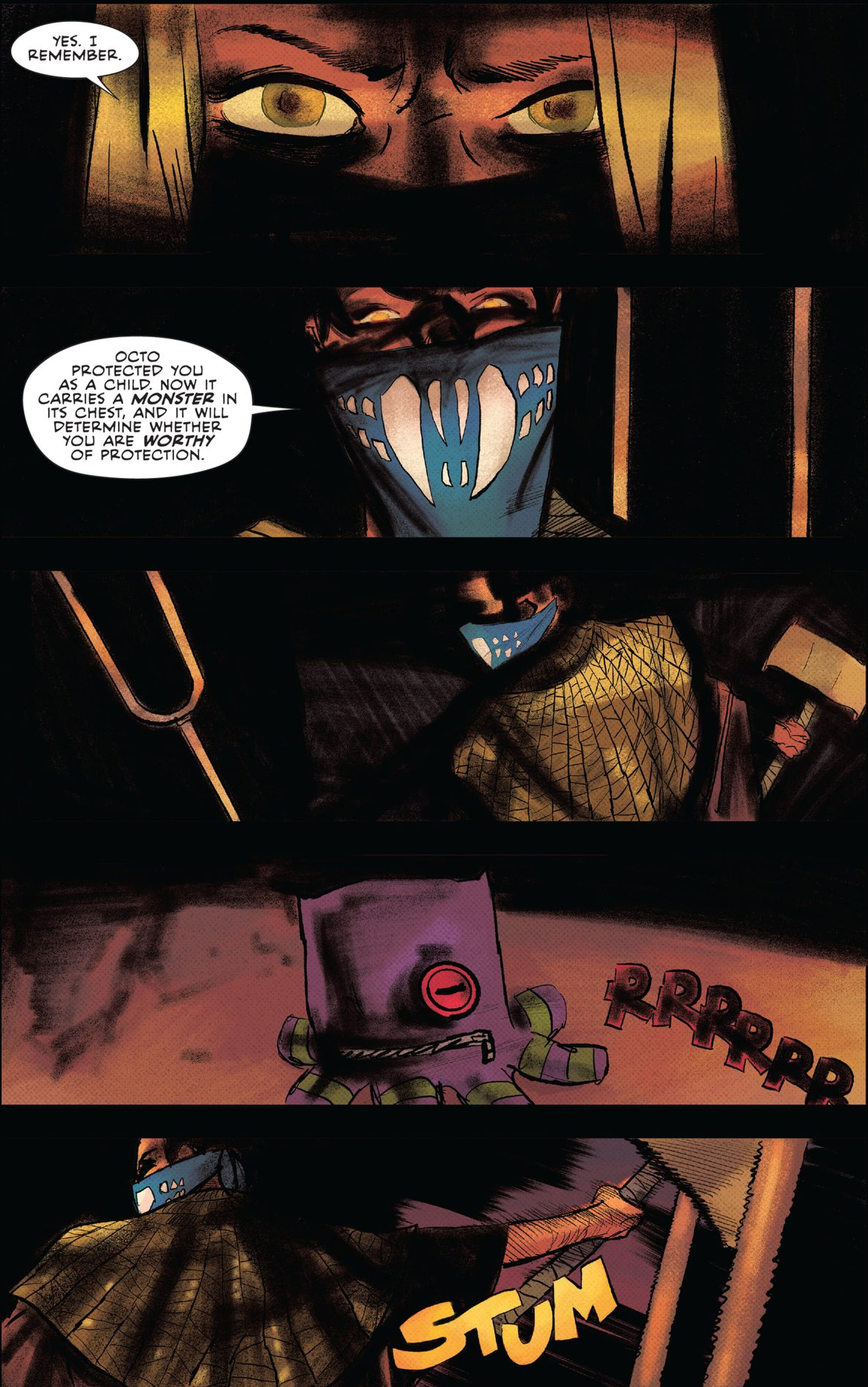

STEP INTO THE CIRCLE.

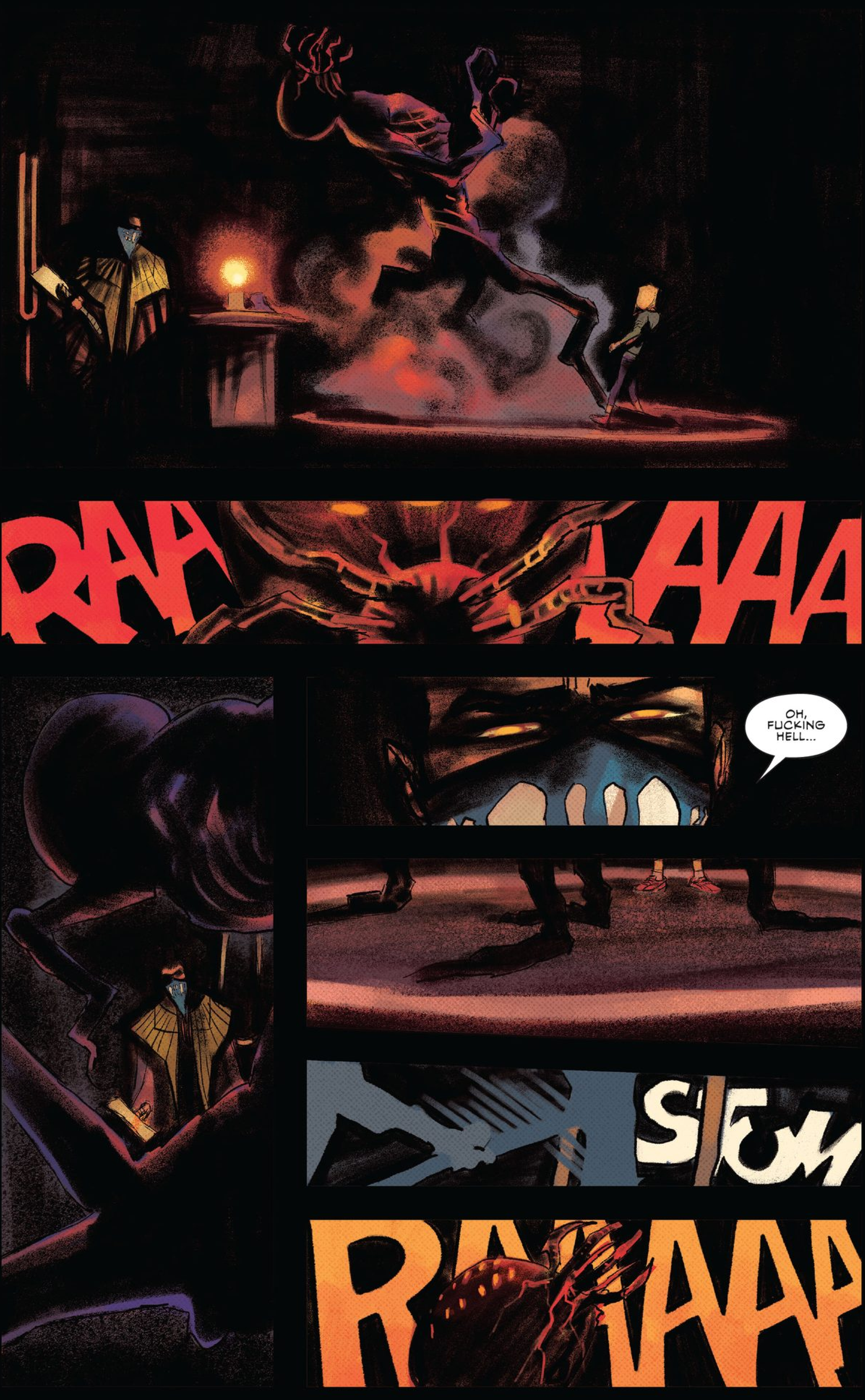

CHILD.
YOU HAVE BEEN CHOSEN FOR *INDUCTION* INTO THE ORDER OF ST. GEORGE.
WHAT IS YOUR FAMILY NAME?
I...I DON'T HAVE A NAME.
GOOD. HUNTERS HAVE NO FAMILY.
DO YOU HAVE A TOTEM?
YEAH.
WHAT IS ITS NAME?
IT... DOESN'T HAVE A NAME?
IT'S OKAY. WHAT DID YOU CALL IT, BEFORE?
OH... *UH...* OCTO.

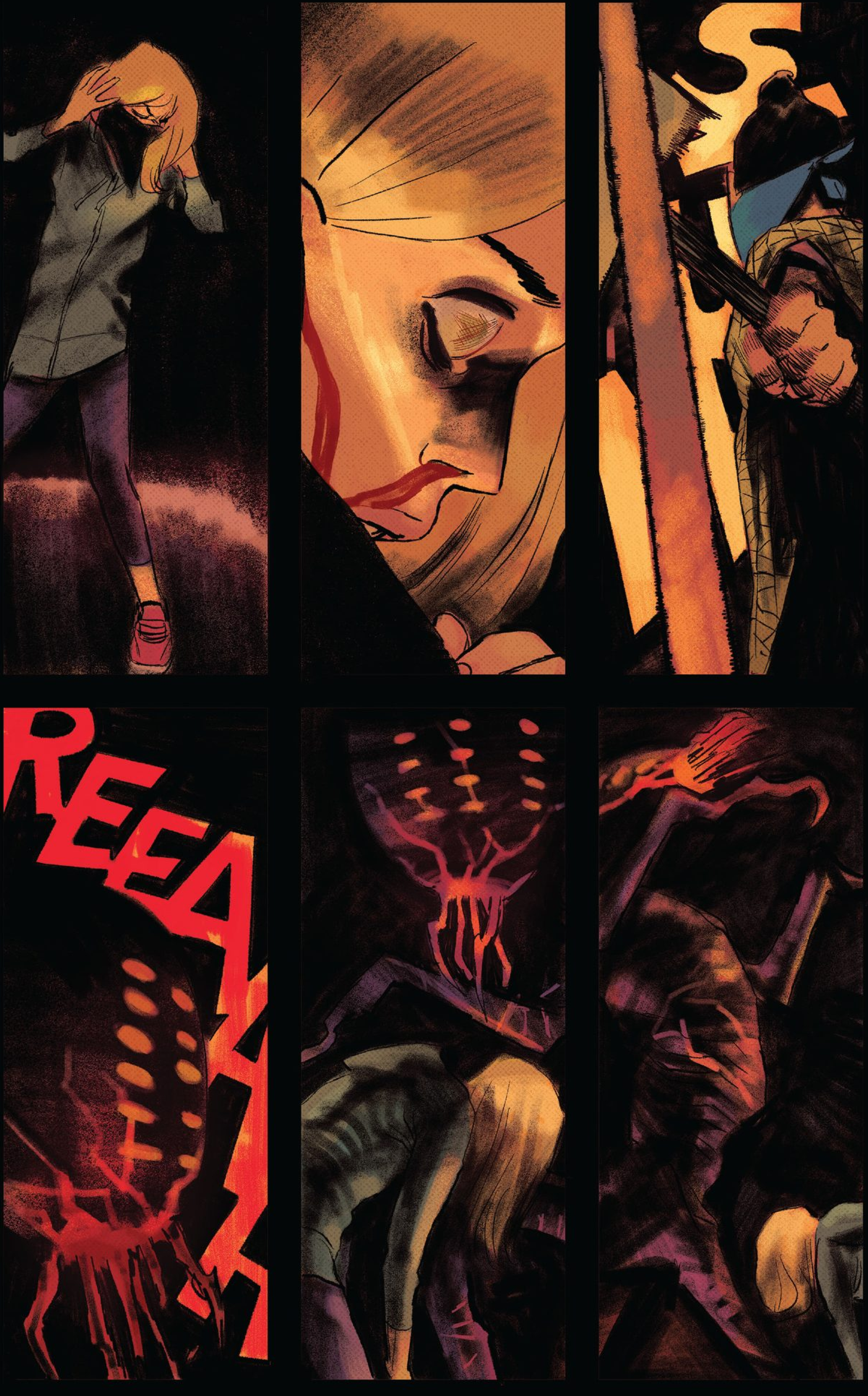

PLACE OCTO ON THE ALTAR.
THERE IS SOMETHING *INSIDE* OF OCTO, ISN'T THERE?
YES.
IT ***WRONGED*** YOU. IT SENT YOU DOWN THIS DARK PATH.
YES.
DO YOU REMEMBER WHAT IT DID? CAN YOU HOLD IT IN YOUR MIND'S EYE?
YES.
DO YOU REMEMBER ITS ***EYES,*** CHILD?




OH, JESUS--


YES. I REMEMBER.
OCTO PROTECTED YOU AS A CHILD. NOW IT CARRIES A ***MONSTER*** IN ITS CHEST, AND IT WILL DETERMINE WHETHER YOU ARE ***WORTHY*** OF PROTECTION.
RRRRRR
STUM


RAAAAAAA
OH, FUCKING HELL...
STOM
RAAAA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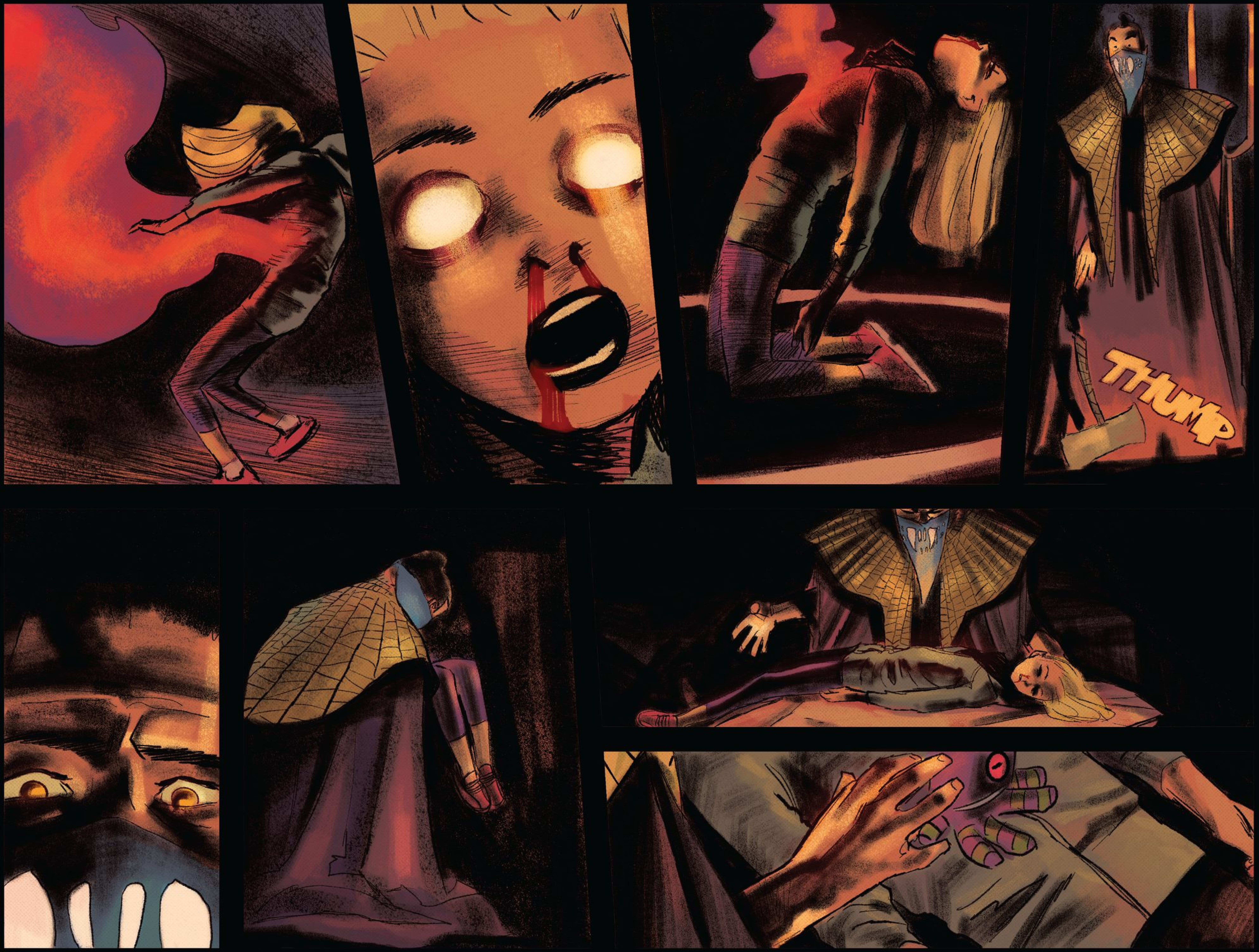
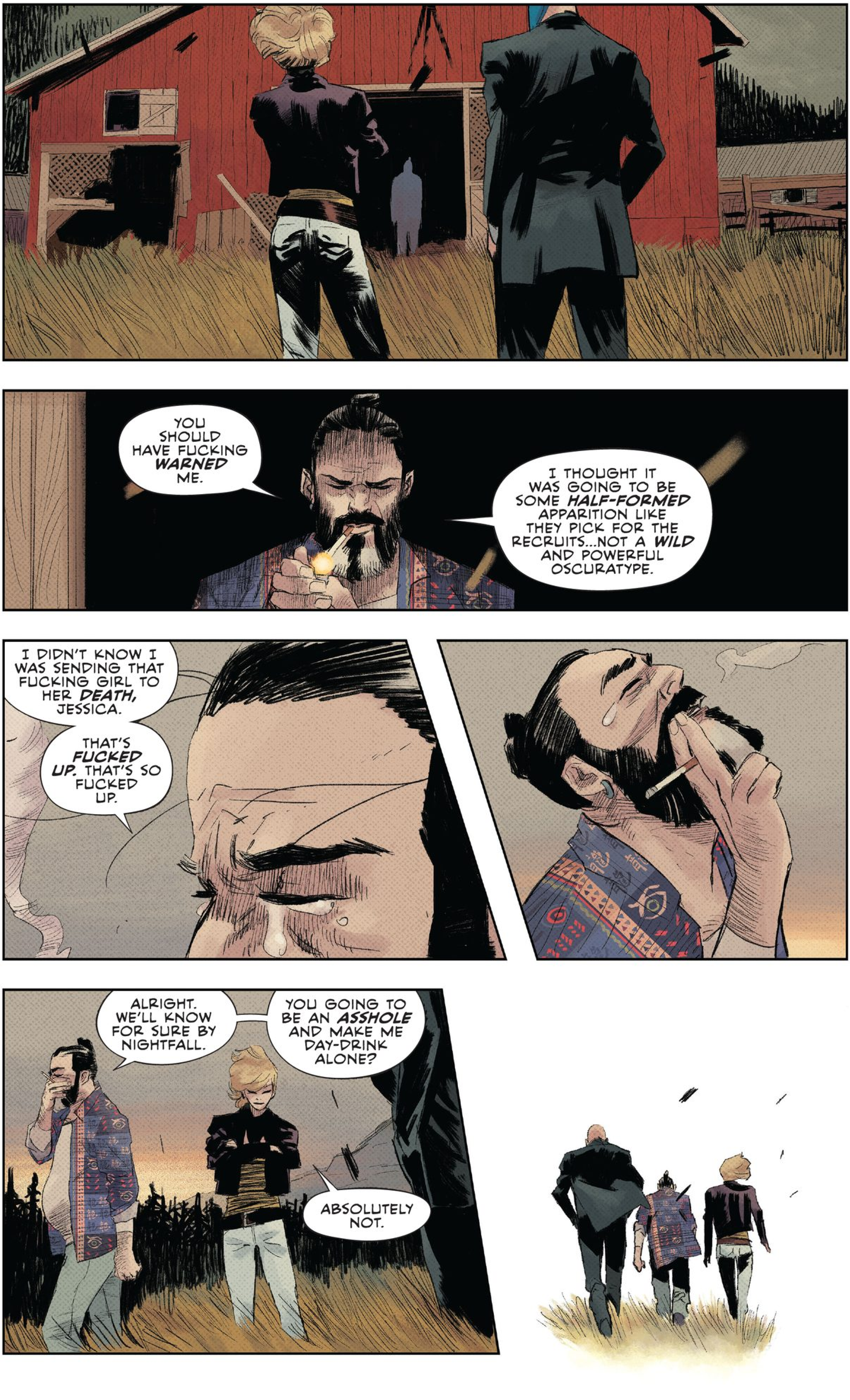

THUMP


YOU SHOULD HAVE FUCKING *WARNED* ME.
I THOUGHT IT WAS GOING TO BE SOME *HALF-FORMED* APPARITION LIKE THEY PICK FOR THE RECRUITS...NOT A *WILD* AND POWERFUL OSCURATYPE.
I DIDN'T KNOW I WAS SENDING THAT FUCKING GIRL TO HER *DEATH,* JESSICA.
THAT'S *FUCKED UP.* THAT'S SO FUCKED UP.
ALRIGHT. WE'LL KNOW FOR SURE BY NIGHTFALL.
YOU GOING TO BE AN *ASSHOLE* AND MAKE ME DAY-DRINK ALONE?
ABSOLUTELY NOT.

SOMETHING is KILLING the CHILDREN™

"ME AND MY MONSTER"

PART THREE

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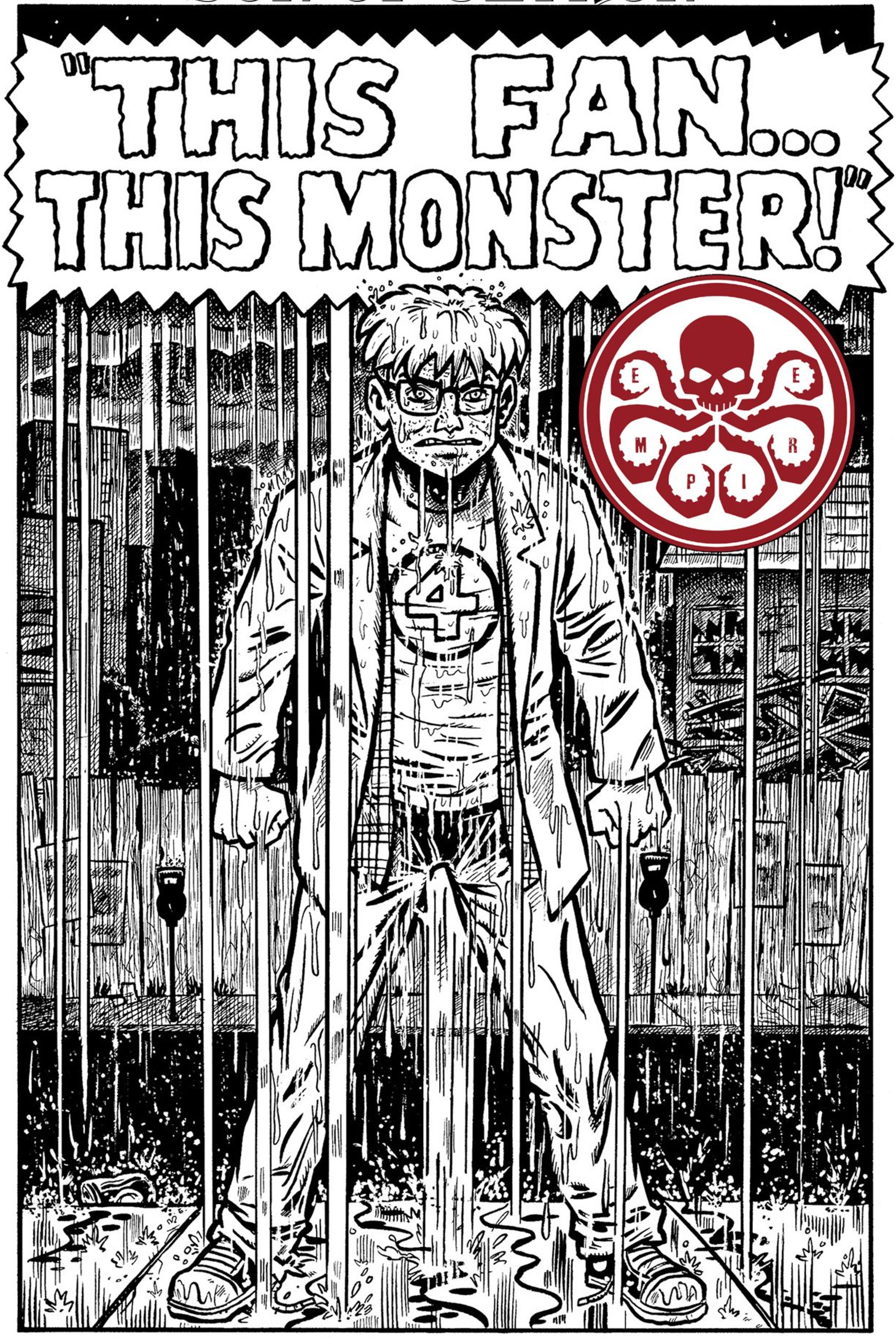
SON OF ULTRON


"THIS FAN... THIS MONSTER!"